

Contact: Jeff Dismukes
ODMHSAS Public Information Office
(405) 522-3907

June 13, 2003

REGAN NAMED EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR OF TALIAFERRO CMHC IN LAWTON

Jim Regan, interim director of Jim Taliaferro Community Mental Health Center in Lawton for the past year, has been named executive director of the facility. The appointment was finalized today at the State Board of Mental Health and Substance Abuse Services' regular monthly meeting, held this month in Tulsa.

Regan, a native of Lawton, has been involved in the field of mental health and substance abuse services for nearly 30 years. He began his career at Jim Taliaferro CMHC in 1975 as a mental health aide, working his way up to recreational therapist, personal therapeutic center coordinator, director of patient activities programs and director of rehabilitative services. He has a bachelor of science degree from Cameron University, and is a Certified Public Manager, as well as a Certified Case Manager.

As executive director of Jim Taliaferro CMHC, Regan will oversee nearly 140 staff and an annual budget of \$7.3 million. He said he is excited about where the CMHC is headed.

“Having lived in this area so long, I am aware of the specific needs of southwest Oklahoma and how they differ from other parts of the state,” Regan said. “With the recent budget shortfall and the economic crisis in Oklahoma, we are working hard to tailor our programs to meet the needs of our priority populations, which, in southwest Oklahoma,

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are persons with a serious mental illness, children with serious emotional disorders and people in need of substance abuse services.”

Under Regan’s leadership while serving as interim director, Jim Taliaferro CMHC successfully implemented a Program of Assertive Community Treatment (known as PACT) for persons with severe mental illness. Beginning July 1, the center will add two new specialty programs, Regan said.

The first is an integrated outpatient treatment program for people with “co-occurring” disorders, meaning they have both mental health and substance abuse treatment needs. Typically, people who need this type of specialized help have only had access to residential services before, Regan said.

“The second program, called ‘Systems of Care,’ is designed to help children and adolescents with serious emotional disorders lower their levels of severe behavioral difficulties,” he noted. “The goal of this program is to provide services that are responsive to children and their families through an integrated system that meets their individual needs.”

Regan said community collaboration with other local agencies and organizations is critical during this period in Oklahoma’s history.

“As we move forward in difficult economic times, we must find ways to collaborate with other agencies locally so we don’t have a lot of overlap, so we can provide the best, most effective services possible for our clients,” Regan said. “I think most service agencies know this is something we’ll have to do more of in the future.”

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Regan has been involved in numerous professional organizations, including the National Alliance for the Mentally Ill, the Oklahoma Drug and Alcohol Professional Counselors Association, and the American Society for Certified Public Managers.

He also has been active in several Lawton civic organizations, including the Mayor's Commission on Physical Fitness, the Community Needs Assessment Task Force, Oklahoma Vocational-Technical Education Advisory Committee, City of Lawton Retired Senior Volunteer Program Advisory Council, Advisory Council for Lawton Community Correctional Center, and the Lawton Chamber of Commerce. He attends the First Assembly of God Church.

He has two daughters, Brittney, a junior at Cameron University majoring in nursing, and Callien, a seventh grader at MacArthur Junior High School in Lawton.

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